

Board of Massage  
MEETING MINUTES for May 5, 2002

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**BOARD MEMBERS:**     **Anni Langsam**, Public Member, Chair; Vice Chair; **Ted Hulbert**, LMP, Rosemary Foster, LMP, **Morgan Caley**, LMP

**PROGRAM STAFF:**     **Gail Zimmerman**, Executive Director, **Kirby Putscher**, Program Manager; **Rob Darling**, Administrative Assistant; **Chris Swanson**, Assistant Attorney General

**OTHERS PRESENT:**     Representatives from: Ashmead School of Massage, Brenneke School of Massage and Bellevue Massage School

**Sunday, May 5, 2002 – 9:00 a.m. - OPEN SESSION**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

1.1     Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved without change.

1.2     Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 13, 2002 meeting were approved a correction to the board member report. The minutes should reflect that Rosemary Foster completed application reviews in addition to preparing for the upcoming board meeting.

**2. ANIMAL MASSAGE PRACTITIONER ENDORSEMENT**

Staff provided the board with an update regarding the implementation of the Animal Massage Practitioner Endorsement. Four open public forums have been conducted to obtain stakeholder input into the drafting of proposed rules. Department of Health staff facilitated the forums on behalf of the Washington State Board of Massage.

Information gathered during the forums has been used to develop draft proposed rules that were shared with the board. The draft language will be forwarded to individuals on our interested parties list as well as those individuals who attended the forums requesting that they provide any additional comments to our office no later than May 31, 2002. A copy of the draft language is available upon request.

### **3. NATIONAL CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION FOR THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE AND BODYWORK (NCETMB)**

The Washington State Board of Massage has an agreement with ASI and the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB) to utilize the National Certification Examination for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCETMB) as the licensing examination for massage practitioners.

Effective July 2002, NCBTMB will no longer be contracting with ASI, they will have an exclusive contract with Thomsen Prometric as the exclusive contractor with regards to the development and administration of the NCETMB. Because ASI's agreement with NCBTMB is being terminated, the current agreement between ASI and the Washington State Board of Massage will have no practical relevance.

Currently, graduates of Washington approved massage schools and programs apply for massage licensure via a Washington State Massage Candidate Handbook. The candidate handbook serves as our application form – no other application is required of the candidate. Once a candidate has completed their massage education, they are able to contact the testing center (currently ASI) to make a reservation to take the examination. Incorporated into the testing provided by ASI are our personal data questions, jurisprudence questions, and the candidate signs an attestation that the information provided is accurate and correct. Candidates are not required to get national certification; however, once they pass the examination they are eligible to apply for and receive national certification for an additional fee.

Under the new arrangement candidates will not be allowed to directly apply for the NCETMB by contacting a testing vendor. Candidates will be required to apply directly to NCBTMB (meeting all the requirements for national certification) and NCBTMB will determine whether that candidate is eligible to take the examination. Once the candidate passes the examination and is nationally certified, NCBTMB will provide verification of the certification to Washington.

Representatives from the NCBTMB met with Gail Zimmerman, Kirby Putscher, Rob Darling, Tim Boorman and Ted Hulbert on March 5, 2002 to discuss the upcoming transition from ASI to the Chauncey Group International.

As a follow-up to that meeting, staff asked the Assistant Attorney General Advisory for the Board of Massage to review the information provided by NCBTMB. In light of the new testing arrangements, staff asked him to determine what the potential legal consequences to the Board and the Department of Health would be should be enter into an agreement with NCBTMB for use of the NCETMB as the examination for applicants seeking a massage practitioner license.

Following a thorough review of the information provided, as well as the statutes and rules governing the practice of massage, the advice given was that we cannot require applicants to obtain national certification as a condition of licensure in Washington.

As a result of the legal advice and a desire to continue to use the examination, a letter was sent to NCBTMB to formally request that NCBTMB allow applicants from Washington to take the examination without having to become nationally certified. In her letter, Ms. Zimmerman requested that NCBTMB provide this office with a response no later than May 10, 2002. Per their request, the deadline for response was extended until May 21, 2002.

A couple of concerns discussed by the board include; the legality of requiring Washington candidates to be nationally certified as a condition of licensure; and, the candidates are required to sign a document stating they will abide by the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice as outlined in the application which are over and above what the massage statute requires.

Several alternatives were discussed by the board, including, develop and administer our own exam; contract with approved massage schools/programs to administer exams; seek a waiver from NCBTMB for national certification requirement; and, incorporate national certification as a requirement into the current massage statute.

#### **4. PLANNING FOR NEXT MEETING**

The board requested that the meeting scheduled for June 30, 2002 be cancelled. The meeting will tentatively be rescheduled for June 9, 2002; however, may need to be rescheduled dependent upon the response from NCBTMB and board member availability.

#### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

They're being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

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Rob Darling, Administrative Asst.

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Anne Langsam, Board Chair